The NMVA is one of the key voices on the “Hill.” Clearly, ARA has been a solid member of the alliance with a goal of repealing the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA). To date, in concert with the NMVA, we have made much progress. Our association with NMVA has helped ARA immensely. Given the identity of NMVA with lawmakers...ARA's goal has been both understood and heard by Members of Congress. In addition, ARA and NMVA are continually working to assist our military even during this time of turbulence.

Let’s put things into a “Washington perspective”...namely...total government disarray! Today your “do-nothing Washington” is immersed in a possible war environment with Syria, efforts to defund an unaffordable “health care” law, debate on immigration/amnesty... the debacle at the National Security Agency (NSA), an incompetent Attorney General, an “out-of-control” Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Americans simply not trusting their government!

This is a pivotal time for our country. However, collectively as Americans we will prevail and accomplish a positive outcome. As we have seen in the past there is strength in numbers. Our voice is being heard. We are helping our veterans especially in the arena of earned benefits. In the recent National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) a 1.8% pay increase was approved. You can be sure ARA and NMVA was a significant “voice” to make this happen.

You can also be sure that the “Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA)” still concerns Members of Congress. Weekly we assess this issue with various Congressional Members on both sides of the “aisle.” Regardless of party, most agree that the USFSPA is unfair and...
In this age, where artificial intelligence seems to be replacing common sense at a Mach-2 pace, we need to re-acquaint ourselves with our mission and its objective – Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act (USFSPA) reform.

Ever since, Congress passed PL97-252 to President Reagan who signed it into law, we’ve worn its provisions like a smelly albatross around our necks. Responding to our CIA and FSA compatriots’ cold-war era out-cry, the 100th Congress Foreign Affairs Committee rescued them from their FSPA tyranny. When Chairman Lee Hamilton was asked why military members of the President’s national defense team were not included in his plan, he suggested that was the House Armed Services Committee’s pervue. USFSPA casualties have been wearing its stinking albatross provisions around our necks since 25 June 1981. Senior NCOs (pay-grade E7 and above) account for over 50% of USFSPA casualties. Seven in 10 military personnel suicides can be linked to marital problem symptoms (heightened operations tempo serves as a USFSPA catalyst); the 113th Congress’ interest in these daily tragedies is lacking. We continue to press for action, simply because.

Our book Divorce and the Military II by Marsha L. Thole and Frank W. Ault (Jan 1, 1998) is widely recognized (by everyone, except AAFES and NEXCOM) as the principle comprehensive guide to effective representation in military divorce actions. Additional suggested military divorce action related, reading material includes:

a. Marriage Confidential, by Pamela Haag (May 31, 2011): Provides a common sense marriage expectations reality check, and

b. Divorce Busting, by Michele Weiner-Davis (Feb 1, 1993): Describes rapid results oriented divorce prevention tactics.

I urge all ARA members to reiterate our common USFSPA provision sentiments, to those elected to represent our individual interests in Congress, and punctuate our messages with a complementary copy of our book; 2014 is an election year!

At your service,
Dennis Egge, President, ARA BOD

My divorce was in California in 1987 at 32.9% and was changed in 2005 by a California judge to 50%. Yes California is fair. That is why I do not live in that state anymore.

Does the DSPO have any empirical data that directly or indirectly relates military failed or completed suicides to a 1982 federal law - the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act, 10 USC 1408, which was inserted as an amendment to the FY 1983 NDAA - 8 Sep 1982? I am aware of two military retiree suicides that were solely caused by the USFSPA’s egregious demands upon military failed marriages. The reason given - “non combat related” would indicate the cause(s) could be a “Dear John” (“Dear Jane” for a female member) letter from the member’s spouse “back home.”

MOAA’s stance on the Uniformed Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA) is there are many inequalities that should be corrected. We believe the division of military retired pay with former spouses is unfair in many ways. We also believe that judges have ruled inappropriately that members must divide VA disability compensation with a former spouse, or must begin payments to the former spouse upon reaching 20 years of service-effectively, forcing the member off active duty. We’re optimistic that we can find a willing legislator in the 113th Congress. We met with several interested legislators last year and came close to moving forward, but talks derailed when outside groups demanded that legislation focus on USFSPA repeal rather than reform. After meeting with many Congressional staff members over the years, it’s our professional opinion that full repeal is unfeasible.

Expert members of the ABA Family Law Section agree: There’s not a sufficient basis for the Family Law Section to submit comments or testimony in support of amendments to the USFSPA.
Politicians, who rarely constrain themselves to facts in any case, have been only too willing to base laws on these deeply-flawed methods in the name of protecting women and garnering votes. The objective harm created by this to men, children, and families be damned.

While the use of advocacy research is by no means limited to producing bogus studies in the field of family and domestic violence, it has been well, perhaps best, documented there.

In 1963, the lives of many American women changed with the publication of Betty Friedan’s book, “The Feminine Mystique.” Over five million copies of this explosive book eventually would be sold in which she claimed women were being oppressed by our capitalist and patriarchal society. Mrs. Friedan would later be exposed as a neo-Marxist but at the time she accelerated a movement that morphed into a Fifth Column with the goal of ending marriage and families and returning to a more primitive matriarchy.

The end of marriage and families was, of course, a basic goal of Marx, Engels, and Lenin. However, if women are as violent, and often more violent than their male or female partners in intimate relationships then the dynamic for funding feminist pogroms changes radically in the name of equal justice for all. Therefore, to sustain their public funding and associated pogroms radical feminists must maintain, in the face of all evidence to the contrary, that domestic violence is dominantly men battering women, and that women are only violent in self defense.

The disastrous affects on children, families, and marriage will echo for decades and the very foundations of our Constitution and freedoms have been undercut by this process. Such basic rights as the Second Amendment are being rapidly destroyed by such acts as the Lautenberg Amendment, as tens of millions of men convicted of a felony or even misdemeanors domestic violence, or who have an ex parte restraining order entered against them, have lost their right to bear arms. Since manifestations of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries (TBI) characteristic of veterans of our now endless wars mimic “domestic violence” under current laws we are disarming the very citizens willing to fight to preserve our freedoms, a policy of tyranny.

Today it is reasonable to question whether our civilization can recover? I have not found a matriarchal society that has advanced beyond Stone Age technology. The matriarchal societies extent today in our inner cities make it clear that the regression is swift and sure. That is a horrible price for society to pay in support of a radical feminist fallacy propped up only by advocacy research.

The Corry Report

Continued from page 1

Washington Ramble

Continued from page 1

should be repealed. ARA’s on-going activity to “educate” new and senior Members of Congress continues to be effective.

Given the current Syria issue, our ARA goal will be temporarily on the “back burner.” Many of us do not want this country in a “third” conflict. We have too much to handle with other issues taking priority. In the months ahead, we have to stay focused. We have to all help veterans with finding jobs. Between 2011 and 2016, some 1 million service members will separate from the military and make the transition to civilian life. Not only is finding the right job harder than many expect, but the financial variables of civilian life can be daunting. As a member of NMVA, ARA plays a vital role for our military and veterans. As of this past June, 7.2 percent of post-9/11 veterans were unemployed. Many more are underemployed, because new veterans often go through two or three jobs to make ends meet...and keep looking until they find the right one. Recent veterans are dealing with wounds both seen and unseen. Many Gulf-War-II era veterans were exposed to combat. Nearly half of recent veterans say they suffer from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Tens of thousands have suffered traumatic brain injuries and over 1,600 have lost limbs. It comes as no surprise that 45 percent of recent veterans have filed for veteran disability...with thousands of these cases “backlogged” by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Be sure ARA with NMVA is pushing the VA to fix this environment for our “Warriors.”

In the days ahead our ARA mission will intensify...especially on Capitol Hill...stay tuned!

Your voice on Capitol Hill,
Michael P Smith
Executive Director

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RESOLUTION NO. 11 -- FORMER SPOUSES PROTECTION ACT

WHEREAS, the Uniform Services Spouse Protection Act, (Public Law 97-252, 10 USC 1408) was effective June 25, 1981, as a compensation measure for former spouses of retired military personnel who had made a significant contribution to the retired member’s household during the member’s military career, and;

WHEREAS, the Act is now viewed as an “open door” for the individual states to divide military retired pay without regard for the original intent of the law, and;

WHEREAS, the adverse consequences of the Act have imposed severe financial hardships on military retired members and their second families, and;

WHEREAS, the adverse consequences include:
- reopening of divorce cases that were settled prior to the enactment of the Act;
- the retroactive partitioning of retired pay;
- continuation of payments after the former spouse remarries;
- absence of a grandfather clause to protect retired pay earned prior to the 1981 effective date;
- allowing the former spouse to receive a pay benefit that was earned by the military member after the divorce was final (e.g., subsequent promotions);
- inclusion of disability compensation, and
- payments to former spouses being required prior to the military member’s actual retirement, NOW;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Retired Enlisted Association supports the principle that spouses of military personnel have a right to adequate support, but within the context of the Supreme Court decision of McCarty vs. McCarty (military retired/retainer pay is not marital property) and Mansell vs. Mansell (VA disability is not included in disposable income), and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Association fully supports legislation that will correct the inequities in the current Act that lead to the adverse consequences herein described.

ATTENTION
SERVICE MEMBERS AND SPOUSES

Trying to make your way through the USFSPA maze? Need assistance in working with your attorney? Want to learn how to save money throughout your divorce process? Then consider the services of a degreed paralegal who can work with you and your attorney. Marsha Thole, co-author of Divorce and the Military II, has worked with clients and attorneys since 1994.

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In the largest study of its kind, military medical researchers have concluded that deployments to war zones and exposure to combat were not major factors behind a significant increase in suicides among military personnel from 2001 to 2008, according to a paper published on Tuesday.

The study, published online by The Journal of the American Medical Association, corroborates what many military medical experts have been saying for years: that the forces underlying the spike in military suicides are similar to those in the civilian world. They include mental illness, substance abuse, and financial and relationship problems.

Several advocacy groups, including Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, or TAPS, also said the findings confirmed what they had been seeing on the ground. “We so often just link military suicide to combat trauma,” said Kim Ruocco, the director of postvention for TAPS. “But there are many others: long hours, separation from support systems, sleeplessness. All are stressors. All add to increases in mental health issues.”

**NEW YORK TIMES**
August 7, 2013 Pg. 14

By James Dao

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**Pentagon (Readiness) Report**

Military-friendly employers have reached the goal of hiring 50,000 military spouses two years early, said Jessica Wright, acting under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness. Wright, who made the announcement at the Department of Defense Military Family Readiness Council meeting, said it was an important milestone to hire the 50,000 spouses “well ahead” of 2015, the original goal of the Military Spouse Employment Partnership. About 180 employers are part of the partnership. Since June 29, 2011, when the partnership was expanded from an Army program to a program for all military spouses, companies have hired more than 50,000 spouses. That’s a 56 percent increase since November, when the number of spouses hired had reached 32,000. And in less than a year, the number of military-friendly companies who have joined the partnership has also increased from 129 to more than 180.

**USFSPA Casualties**

These, effective April 2013 data, are provided by DFAS, thanks to a FOIA request

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If NOT, please advise me: My objective is to assure all service personnel have an opportunity to read this reference guide before they marry and divorce. My email address is contactara@rocketmail.com.

Thank you for your service,

Dennis Egge, President, American Retirees Association BOD
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